CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method comprising:

detecting an attempt to place a call from an origination point directed toward a destination point;

querying information regarding a status of a calling service associated with said destination point; and

processing said call attempt as a function of said information regarding said status of said calling service, wherein said processing provides blocking of said call attempt responsive to particular information regarding said status of said calling service.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said calling service comprises call redirecting.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein said call redirecting comprises call forwarding.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein said call redirecting comprises remote call forwarding.

5.   The method of claim 2, wherein said information regarding said status of said calling service comprises an indication that call redirecting is active with respect to said destination point.

6.   The method of claim 2, wherein said information regarding said status of said calling service comprises an indication that call forwarding on busy is active with respect to said destination point.

7.   The method of claim 2, wherein said information regarding said status of said calling service comprises an indication that call forwarding on no answer is active with respect to said destination point.

8.   The method of claim 2, wherein said information regarding said status of said calling service comprises an indication that selective call redirecting is active with respect to said destination point.

9.   The method of claim 2, wherein said information regarding said status of said calling service comprises information indirectly indicative of said calling service.

10.   The method of claim 2, wherein said information regarding said status of said calling service comprises line type information.

11.   The method of claim 2, wherein said blocking of said call attempt is provided if said information regarding said status of said calling service indicates any form of call redirecting is active with respect to said destination point.

12.   The method of claim 2, wherein said blocking of said call attempt is provided if said information regarding said status of said calling service indicates a particular form of call redirecting is active with respect to said destination point.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein said calling service comprises three-way calling.

14.   The method of claim 9, wherein said information regarding said status of said calling service comprises an indication that three-way calling is enabled with respect to said destination point.

15.   The method of claim 1, wherein said querying information regarding said status of said calling service utilizes a SS7 message.

16.   The method of claim 15, wherein said SS7 message comprises a TCAP message.

17.   The method of claim 15, wherein said SS7 message comprises an ISUP message.

18.   The method of claim 1, wherein said querying information regarding said status of said calling service is provided by call intelligence coupled to a communication network through which said call attempt is attempting to place a call.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein said call intelligence comprises an intelligent network engine coupled to an intelligent network of a communication system.

20.   The method of claim 18, wherein said call intelligence comprises a validation engine operable to generate a call processing score based upon said information regarding said status of said calling service.

21.   The method of claim 18, wherein said call intelligence is coupled to additional call processing functionality.

22.   The method of claim 21, wherein said additional call processing functionality comprises call processing functionality selected from the group consisting of billing and customer care.

23.   The method of claim 18, further comprising
logging information with respect to said queried information.

24.   The method of claim 23, wherein said logged information is utilized in subsequently processing a call attempt.

25.   The method of claim 23, wherein said logged information is utilized in trend analysis with respect to a plurality of call attempts.

26.   The method of claim 23, wherein said logged information is utilized in batch processing information with respect to a plurality of previous call attempts.

27.   The method of claim 18, wherein said call intelligence is disposed centrally with respect to a plurality of locations for which call processing services are provided.

28.   The method of claim 18, wherein said call intelligence comprises a system selected from the group comprising a SS7 gateway, a SS7 STP, a SS7 SP, a class 4 switch, and a class 5 switch operable to provide said querying information exclusive of providing any call connection operation.

29.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if said querying information is to be performed with respect to said call attempt.

30.   The method of claim 29, wherein said determining if said querying information is to be performed comprises:
analyzing logged information with respect to information queried with respect to a previous call attempt.

31.   The method of claim 29, wherein said determining if said querying information is to be performed comprises:

analyzing local service area information and determining if said call attempt is to be terminated within said local service area or external thereto.

32.   The method of claim 1, wherein said processing providing blocking of said call attempt is a function of participation information such that particular information regarding said status of said calling service results in different blocking treatment responsive to said participation matrix.

33.   The method of claim 1, wherein said origination point comprises a calling party terminal.

34.   The method of claim 1, wherein said destination point comprises a called party terminal.

35.   The method of claim 1, wherein said destination point comprises a network element serving a called number.

36.   A system comprising:

a intelligent network engine in communication with network elements of a communication network and operable to query information regarding a status of a call redirecting service associated with a called number; and

a validation engine in communication with said intelligent network engine and operable to determine a treatment for a particular call attempt from said information regarding a status of said call redirecting service.

37.   The system of claim 36, wherein said call redirecting service comprises call forwarding.

38.   The system of claim 36, wherein said call redirecting service comprises remote call forwarding.

39.   The system of claim 36, wherein said information comprises an indication that call redirecting is active with respect to said called number.

40. The system of claim 36, wherein said information comprises an indication that call forwarding on busy is active with respect to said called number.

41. The system of claim 36, wherein said information comprises an indication that call forwarding on no answer is active with respect to said called number.

42. The system of claim 36, wherein said information comprises an indication that selective call redirecting is active with respect to said called number.

43. The system of claim 36, wherein said information comprises a line type associated with said called number.

44. The system of claim 36, wherein said network elements comprise SS7 network elements.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein said intelligent network engine utilizes a TCAP portion of a SS7 message to query said information.

46. The system of claim 44, wherein said intelligent network engine utilizes a ISUP portion of a SS7 message to query said information.

47. The system of claim 36, wherein said validation engine is operable to determine a score for use in further processing of said call attempt.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein said score is utilized in said call treatment determination.

49. The system of claim 47, wherein said score comprises a negative indication for preventing further processing of said call attempt.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein said negative indication results from any form of said call redirecting service being detected as active with respect to said called party terminal.

51. The system of claim 49, wherein said negative indication results from a particular form of said call redirecting service being detected as active with respect to said called party terminal.

52.   The system of claim 47, wherein said score comprises an affirmative indication for allowing further processing of said call attempt.

53.   The system of claim 52, wherein said affirmative indication results from no form of said call redirecting service being detected as active with respect to said called party terminal.

54.   The system of claim 52, wherein said affirmative indication results from a particular form of said call redirecting service not being detected as active with respect to said called party terminal.

55.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:

a participation matrix utilized by said validation engine in determining said call treatment as a function of a particular form of said call redirecting service detected.

56.   The system of claim 36, wherein said validation engine is further operable to provide validation with respect to a payment source utilized in funding costs incurred in association with said call attempt.

57.   The system of claim 36, wherein said validation engine is further operable to provide verification of a calling party identity.

58.   The system of claim 36, wherein said validation engine is further operable to provide verification that said called number is an authorized number.

59.   The system of claim 36, wherein said validation engine is further operable to provide verification that said called number is not an unauthorized number.

60.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:

a call processor in communication with said validation engine operable to prevent or allow completion of said call attempt as a function of said call treatment determination.

61.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:

a database storing information with respect to said status of said call redirecting service provided by said query.

62.   The system of claim 61, wherein said information stored in said database is used by said validation engine in subsequent call treatment determinations with respect to said called number.

63.   The system of claim 61, wherein said information stored in said database is used in batch processing a plurality of calls for call treatment.

64.   The system of claim 61, wherein said information stored in said database is used in providing trend analysis with respect to a plurality of calls.

65.   The system of claim 36, wherein said intelligent network engine comprises a host selected from the group consisting of a SS7 gateway, a SS7 STP, a SS7 SP, a class 4 switch, and a class 5 switch.

66.   The system of claim 65, wherein said host does not provide call connection operation with respect to said call attempt.

67.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:
a database of information with respect to served locations.

68.   The system of claim 67, wherein said information with respect to served locations is utilized to determine if said intelligent network engine is to query information with respect to said call attempt.

69.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:
a call billing system operable to provide billing with respect to said call attempt.

70.   The system of claim 36, further comprising:
a customer service system operable to provide calling assistance with respect to said call attempt.

71.   A method comprising:

detecting an attempt to place a call from a calling party terminal directed toward a called number;

querying information regarding a status of a call redirecting service associated with said called number; and

processing said call attempt as a function of said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service.

72.   The method of claim 71, wherein said calling party is disposed in a facility for which calling services are provided.

73.   The method of claim 72, wherein said facility comprises a controlled environment facility.

74.   The method of claim 72, wherein said facility comprises a prison facility.

75.   The method of claim 71, wherein a called party terminal associated with said called number is disposed remotely from said calling party terminal.

76.   The method of claim 71, wherein information regarding said status of said call redirecting service is queried from an intelligent network of a communication system.

77.   The method of claim 76, wherein said intelligent network comprises a SS7 network.

78.   The method of claim 71, wherein information regarding said status of said call redirecting service is queried from an end office associated with said called number.

79.   The method of claim 78, wherein said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service is queried from an SSP of said end office.

80.   The method of claim 71, wherein said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service comprises an indication that call redirecting is active with respect to said called number.

81.   The method of claim 71, wherein said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service comprises an indication that call forwarding on busy is active with respect to said called number.

82.   The method of claim 71, wherein said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service comprises an indication that call forwarding on no answer is active with respect to said called number.

83.   The method of claim 71, wherein said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service comprises an indication that selective call forwarding is active with respect to said called number.

84.   The method of claim 71, wherein said processing said call attempt comprises blocking said call attempt if said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service indicates any form of call redirecting is active with respect to said called number.

85.   The method of claim 71, wherein said processing said call attempt comprises blocking said call attempt if said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service indicates a particular form of call redirecting is active with respect to said called number.

86.   The method of claim 71, wherein said processing said call attempt comprises allowing said call attempt if said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service indicates no form of call redirecting is active with respect to said called number.

87.   The method of claim 71, wherein said processing said call attempt comprises allowing said call attempt if said information regarding said status of said call redirecting service indicates a particular form of call redirecting is inactive with respect to said called number.

88.   The method of claim 71 wherein said information is not specific to call redirecting.

89.   The method of claim 88, wherein said information comprises a line type.

90.   A method of call processing, said method comprising:

obtaining information with respect to a called number from a network element, said information being indicative of a configuration associated with said called number but not indicative of a call completion status of said called number; and

preventing connection of a call to said called number as a function of said obtained information.

91.   The method of claim 90, wherein said obtained information comprises information showing a status of an enhanced calling feature associated with said called number.

92.   The method of claim 91, wherein said enhanced calling feature comprises call redirecting.

93.   The method of claim 91, wherein said enhanced calling feature comprises three-way calling.

94.   The method of claim 90, wherein said obtained information comprises information showing a line type associated with said called number.

95.   The method of claim 90, wherein said network element is disposed in a SS7 network.

96.   The method of claim 95, wherein said obtained information is obtained via a TCAP message.

97.   The method of claim 95, wherein said obtained information is obtained via an ISUP message.